

GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM
Courtyard Conference Room

Committee Members:

Dave Russell (Chair)
Cynthia Charat (Vice Chair) - absent
James Love
Dan McBerty
Bill Reinert
Chip Dennerlien – arrived late
Cliff Ostermeier
Vacant Position

City/Staff Liaisons:

Ken Garrison (Parks)
Dan DeYoung (City Council)
David Reeves (Asst. City Manager – at beginning)

Guests:

**** Moved E/F Street project update and parking lots discussions (Winco, H Street, and Napa) to beginning of agenda ****

E/F Street Project Update (David Reeves) –

- David Reeves gave brief history – there are many groups involved in different aspects of project, Council anxious to get project finished
- Requested Committee to suggest 5 trees to be planted and he will put that order in with the contractor
- Dan DeYoung reminded Committee to be mindful of not blocking Human Bean's business/sign and of not encouraging people to pull in and park to look closely at trees
- Discussion among Committee members regarding coniferous vs. deciduous (canopy) and native coniferous vs. Sequoias and pros/cons Scarlet Oak and others.
- Suggestion of Committee member visiting the site to get a better idea of best trees.
- Ford group marked where they want to put the sign – need to adjust where trees go so as not to interfere with Human Bean's sign.
- Bill suggested lighting trees at night – only power discussions have been about the sign, could possibly use battery or solar powered lights
- At end of meeting Jim shared what he came up with for the space: a grouping of 3 Douglas Firs, further east a Red or White or Black Oak (something large), and then out front near the sign going with a smaller tree. Provided a list of suggested shrubs and grasses (drought tolerant).
- Status of metal tree is still undecided.

MOTION/VOTE

Dave moved and Cynthia seconded the motion to have Jim Love and City representative visit the site and discuss which tree species/locations would be best. The vote resulted as follows: The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Committee Members Russell, Love, McBerty, Reinert, and Ostermeier. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: Committee Members Charat and Dennerlien (arrived after vote). The motion passed.

Winco Parking Lot Update – (Dave Russell)

- Dave Russell recapped discussions Committee has had with Lora Glover and Jeff Nelson about their desire to connect with Winco to discuss canopy options in parking lot
- Committee goal is to improve City parking lot code regarding tree/canopy requirements

- Gave recent example of how Home Depot met City's inadequate code with poor results. A good example is TRCH campus (multiple canopy situations to make it look more park-like).
- Haven't heard back from Chip or Jeff so David Reeves to please pass along to Lora reminder of Committee's desire to provide input to Winco.
- City needs more canopy, development code needs major rewrite, Dan DeYoung assured Committee City Council will be addressing updating the development code.

H Street Parking Lot Update – (David Reeves)

- City did a few things to make parking lot more usable, it is available for 3 hr. customer parking, and it is getting plenty of use.
- Budget item to likely be approved by Council to do landscaping and light/safety improvements.
- Ultimate goal is to also use the lot as a downtown gathering area for events.
- Improvements will be completed in phases - could possibly be the example of what parking lots should look like in the city.

Napa Parking Lot Update – (Chip)

- Chip shared importance of getting trees/landscaping to this particular area
- It's more than an intersection (center of reinvestment and location of downtown events)
- David Reeves shared it was a pre-existing, non-conforming use
- Continued discussion about the negatives of the Napa lot
- David inquired if Tree Committee had approached them yet because they seemed like they wanted to be good community partners
- Chip said he had talked to them a couple times
- A starting point would be an offer from City to plant a couple new trees and remove the dead tree

I. Business - Continuing

A. Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2015

Corrections to minutes: n/a

MOTION/VOTE

Bill moved and Chip seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2015 meeting. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Committee Members Russell, Love, McBerty, Reinert, Dennerlien, and Ostermeier. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: Committee Member Charat. The motion passed.

II. Business - New

A. Announcements – n/a

B. Event Calendar Review – n/a

C. Allen Dale Sports Complex Parking Lot – Discussion

- Jeff sent a picture for Committee to look at
- Cynthia may have had some issues with this project (per Dave and Chip), she was possibly worried about losing trees near the entrance, trees are staying where they are per Jeff

- Committee is fine with current proposed design – plenty of shade and good creek buffer
- Committee would like to be in dialogue about species and soil amendment as project continues to develop.
- Parks Department will have plenty of input in the project
- Discussion turned to Rogue River Hwy landscaping – City doesn't have budget/manpower to maintain it

D. Mayor's Volunteer Dinner – no changes to RSVP list

E. H Street Parking Lot – see above

F. Updates

- Jeff would like to know what the Committee wants to see replace the tree to be removed at water treatment plant.
- Dave suggested a grouping of 3 trees to replace the large canopy the tree coming out provided
- Tree coming out is historic so there will have to be some historic input
- Big Leaf Maple was suggested and seemed to be a good choice

MOTION/VOTE

Dave moved and Chip seconded the motion to make the recommendation of replacing the historic Oak tree at the water treatment plant with multiple trees that will add to and cover the previous canopy and would like to see at least one of those trees be a Big Leaf Maple. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Committee Members Russell, Love, McBerty, Reinert, Dennerlien, and Ostermeier. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: Committee Member Charat. The motion passed.

G. Winco Parking Lot Updates – also see above

- David Reeves will check in with Lora to see if possible dialogue can occur with Winco about ways they could increase their tree canopy in the lot
- If Dave Russell doesn't hear anything in a couple weeks he'll contact Jeff or Lora

H. Educational Article – (Chip)

I. Comments –

- If giving lengthy presentation on topic send out draft ahead of time to Committee members
- If anyone is going to cancel or add guests to Mayor's volunteer dinner do it with the City asap
- Trees around town coming down (reasons: in a drought, some not irrigated, leaf blight, beetles, etc.)

The meeting was adjourned – next meeting July 13, 1015

These minutes were prepared by contracted minute taker, Becca Quimby.